

Columbia River Levee Repair and Accreditation Project

Oregon Solutions DRAFT Meeting Notes

(Online at <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/MCDD>)

ODOT Region 1 Headquarters
First Floor Meeting Rooms A/B
123 NW Flanders Street, Portland, 97209

January 13, 2015

Public Outreach and Communication

Link to presentation: <http://orsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Oregon-Solutions-Phase-2-Communication-Plan.pdf>

- At our November meeting, we heard from you how important public outreach and communication is to build on the work MCDD has started and especially in moving from fact finding in Phase I to alternatives development in Phase II. In response to those comments, we wanted to outline opportunities for engagement to build a strategy together that identifies key audiences and goals for outreach going forward.
- There is a major need to educate on and discuss, locally and regionally, the role of the levee system in our economy to raise awareness of the function and value of the levees and the assets it protects.
- For initial organization, the audiences have been categorized as:
 - Local (e.g. residents, landowners, business owners, and regular users of district assets)
 - Regional (e.g. residents and visitors interested and impacted by land use, travel, environment, jobs, recreation, etc.)
 - Historic (e.g. Former residents and communities of people that are tied to the history of the area including the Vanport flood)
 - There is a 4th audience to think about which is elected leaders and policymakers. Thus far, that audience has been targeted through the governance and legislative committees.
- These key audiences have different needs and should be approached in ways that address their concerns and perspective. Opportunities to engage by audience may include:
 - Local - face to face interactions; Oregon Solutions Team members engaging at Neighborhood Associations, community events and working together on signage.
 - Regional - Media and communications strategies that are vetted, signage and indirect events to raise awareness.
 - Historic - Commemorative events and or signage, listening sessions with Vanport flood community and other groups, such as indigenous populations that have ties to the area.

- Reminder that the environmental values such as water quality, habitat, open space, etc. should be part of the education and communication about the area (as well as social and economic values).
- Feedback from FEMA that an ancillary benefit for outreach and education may be earning points through the Community Rating System. With every 500 points a 5% discount in flood insurance premiums is available for SFHA properties. Clarification on the economic benefit under CRS is needed.
- Upcoming levee information event through the Columbia Corridor Association is on 1/28. The event has passed and was well attended.
- USACE is on board to participate. Amy Echols, USACE Public Affairs Specialist, participates in the [Oregon Silver Jackets Team](#) Program where federal and state partners and counties discuss how to collaborate and share tools to work together before and after flood events. The group meets every couple months on the state level. MCDD or Oregon Solutions may want to be involved.
- The City of Portland has a Public Information Officer in every bureau as well as the Office of Neighborhood Involvement to assist with communication efforts. We should build off of this existing structure.
- A draft budget has been developed to define resources needed to conduct a Public Outreach and Communication Plan. We're looking for feedback and input, as well as in-kind and direct resource funding from Oregon Solutions Team members going forward. This Plan will act as a refined charge for the Public Outreach and Communications Team. Please follow up with Joel Schoening to discuss your participation: MCDD Community Affairs 503.281.5675 ext. 302 | 541.954.4680, jschoening@mcdd.org

USACE Announcement

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) passed in 2014. The Act created an opportunity for communities to develop lists of projects to present to Congress for funding consideration. MCDD worked with USACE to develop a list of priority projects for the Districts in December 2014. USACE staff then recognized that the Flood Development Act of 1970 Section 216 provides USACE direct authority to apply and receive funding for investigation studies that could eventually lead to construction funding, if approved. Thanks to MCDD staff for always looking for ways to make the Districts work and for working with us (USACE) to develop the list of projects and find a path forward to pursue authorization and funding.

Declaration of Cooperation-Review of Draft

Link to presentation:

<http://orsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FINAL-Declaration-of-Cooperation-Presentation-PPt-11315-1.pdf>

- The DoC is a non-legally binding agreement to document commitment to the process going forward. The intention is to have everyone sitting around the table to agree to the DoC in order to outline roles and responsibilities upfront before moving into the next phase. It's critical that every member sign the document, and if they are not willing to sign it, let's work that out as a group.
- We want to acknowledge accomplishments in Phase I, open to suggestions on how to reflect success.
- There is concern that we are diverging from the primary purpose by broadening goals. We must still feel urgency to meet FEMA and USACE standards.
- The City of Portland has been meeting internally to develop a draft set of goals to ensure bureaus are aligned. We will send out the criteria from the City.
- Need to clarify the alternatives evaluation criteria to ensure it is reflective of broad stakeholders in the region in order to work through the alternatives and eventually be able to address how decisions are made. This may require a work session before the March meeting to revise criteria language in the DoC.
- In terms of governance, in Phase II we will continue to have the OST serve as the main forum for discussions, information sharing, and decision-making. The Technical Advisory Committee will provide review and advice on technical matters (not policy decisions) as tasked by the OST. The Steering Committee will organize administrative matters to set the agenda, track the budget, and provide contract oversight. Other committees such as the Legislative Committee and Governance Committee will meet as needed.

Other Issues

- In terms of the geographic scope beyond PEN 1 and PEN 2, we already have a large number of representatives at the table. We may need to add representatives from MCDD (the district, not the staff) and Sandy Drainage Improvement Company (SDIC) in order to understand where there are shared opportunities and challenges. Want to acknowledge relationships between the Districts and how decisions are made for PEN 1 and PEN 2 and the impact and opportunities with the adjoining levees.
- Further, the DoC needs to be clear about how and when alignment with the MCDD and SDIC levees will/should be considered. There is an interest in exploring whether or not there is potential efficiency in process, as well as structural design, in consolidating PEN 1 and PEN 2 with MCDD, and potentially SDIC, under one certification and accreditation process. At this point, the timing of when and how that would occur is unclear. We may need to hold a work session to further discuss how to describe where we are on consolidation in the DoC and how that option will move forward.
- Funding will need to continue to be leveraged from participating organizations for project management and consulting services. Floodplain analysis may be outside of scope for IFA loan.

Next Steps

- In order for Mayor Hales and Commissioner Bailey to sign, a revised DoC must be presented to their respective council and board with enough lead time for the March 3rd OST meeting. We will work to have revisions within a month (February 12, 2015).
- Port of Portland is having a work session as part of their January Commission meeting to review criteria and adopt strategic goals for levee improvements, and will share further information when the resolution is adopted.
- Hold work sessions soon to refine DoC language.
- Send edits to Steve Greenwood sgreenw@pdx.edu.

Technical Advisory Committee Updates

- Cornforth has completed the slope stability and seepage model based on the Corps design level. The reverse engineering is also underway to provide the OST information about what level of protection the levees are providing today. Cornforth will present initial findings to the TAC at its January 26th meeting and then provide a summary of results at the March 3, 2015 OST meeting.
- The TAC is reviewing conceptual options around the railroad embankment deficiencies identified in PEN 1. Two meetings have been held so far, and a conceptual option report will be shared with the TAC on the 26th for refinement and presentation to the OST at the March meeting to prepare a SOW for a consultant for further investigation.

NOAA Presentation; Endangered Species Act, Federal Nexus and Consultations on Flood Mapping

Bonnie Shorin, NOAA Program Analyst based in Lacey, WA, presented an overview of the ESA and Biological Opinion in Oregon and Washington. Link to presentation:

http://orsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ESA-FEMA-LEVEES-Oregon-Solutions_final.pdf

- Endangered Species Act; Purpose and Requirements for Consultation
 - Federal agencies taking action (e.g. FEMA mapping floodplains or USACE certifying levees) under ESA are responsible to ensure they are not adversely impacting species or the ecosystems upon which species depend.
 - Difference in how baseline is defined by USACE and NOAA: USACE interprets baseline condition as what the levee system is facing right now to measure effect; ESA baseline reviews effects of proposed action in an additive manner to the current conditions to evaluate how current conditions are impacting species.
- Biological Opinion Definition and Background in WA and OR
 - If formal consultation with NOAA is required as part of ESA review, then they will prepare a biological opinion on whether the proposed activity will jeopardize the

continued existence of an ESA listed species. The Service has 45 days after completion of formal consultation to write the opinion.

- See the presentation for a timeline of cases in Washington and Oregon that are impacting how the biological opinion is implemented through the Reasonable Prudent Alternative(RPA). A revised RPA for Oregon is in redraft form and is expected to be released publicly in the next few months. Of interest to this group is how Channel Migration Zones will be mapped and how proxy standards may impact development.
- Columbia River Floodplain Conversion and Species of Concern
 - There are many endangered and threatened fish species in the Columbia River floodplain which have been impacted by over 24,000 acres of estuarine habitat conversion between 1870 and 1983. NOAA is working to understand where floodplain habitat is located and what level of ecological function remains.
- Floodplains provide many ecological functions. Fish grow faster and larger and survival rates are higher if rearing occurs in the floodplain instead of the river (e.g. river tends to sweep out fish faster when they are smaller). Further, inundation creates habitat rich in biota and more protection for all life stages of fish. A variety of functions are impacted by floodplain health (e.g. storm water, water quality, water recharge, temperature moderation, etc.).
- NOAA urges one to reflect on the fact that species are either threatened or endangered because current conditions are not supportive. Improvements over baseline conditions are needed to repair ecological function.
- Discussion about how levee improvements in Oregon can learn from Washington projects in order to be proactive in addressing potential issues/concerns to achieve success with NOAA.

Attendance:

Organization	Name
Audubon	Bob Sallinger
BES	Nancy Hendrickson
BES	Jim Hagerman
Bridgeton N.A.	Karen Kane
Center for Public Service	Rick Mogren
Century Link	Karen Stewart
City of Gresham	Tom MCCausland

Organization	Name
City of Portland	Mayor Hales
City of Portland	Jackie Dingfelder
City of Portland	Christina Owen
City of Portland	Kimberly Tallant
Columbia Corridor Association	Corky Collier
Columbia Slough Watershed Council	Jane Van Dyke
DEQ	Christine Svetkovich
DLCD	Amanda Punton
East Columbia N.A.	Mary Helen Kincaid
FEMA	John Graves
Graphic Packaging	Nathan Phelan
HDR	Shane Cline
Jubitz	Vic Stibolt
MCDD	Joel Schoening
MCDD	Kelly Sherbo
MCDD	Sara Morrissey
MCDD	Sunny Simpkins
Miller Nash representing MCDD	Hong Huynh
MCDD	Reed Wagner
MCDD	Angela Carkner
MCDD	Casey Short
MCDD Board	Tim Warren
Metro	Andy Cotugno

Organization	Name
Metro	Mike Moran
Miller Nash	Hong Huynh
Multnomah County	Christine Lewis
Multnomah County	Jules Bailey
Multnomah County	Brian Vincent
NOAA	Genevieve Angle
NOAA	Marc Liverman
ODFW	Jeff Boechler
Oregon Solutions	Julia Babcock
Oregon Solutions	Steve Greenwood
PP&R	Eileen Argentina
Pacificorp	Sheila Holden
PBS Engineering and Environmental	Tom Archer
PEN 1 Board	Mark Wiggington
Port of Portland	Phil Ralston
Port of Portland	Lise Glancy
Portland Tribune	Steve Law
Portland Water Bureau	Doug Wise
Regional Solutions	Bobby Lee
SDAO	Mark Landauer
Sauvie Island Drainage Imp. Co.	Tim Couch
Sauvie Island Drainage Imp. Co.	Skip Klarquist
Sauvie Island Drainage Imp. Co.	Tim Mackaness

Organization	Name
Senator Merkley's Office	Marc Seigel
Tetrattech, Inc.	Ryan Kilgren
TMT Development	Cristin Bansen
TSCC	Craig Gibbons
USACE	Kevin Brice
USACE	Lance Helwig
USACE	Amy Echols
Water Bureau-Portland	David Peters
West Multnomah SWCD	Dick Springer
West Multnomah SWCD	Bob Wiley
Woven Strategies	Arwen Bird
	Bob Fowler
	Walter Valenta
	Martha Johnston